

REMARKS

The Applicants hereby submit the present Amendment and Request for Reconsideration for the above-referenced patent application, entry of which is earnestly solicited. In the present Amendment, claim 23 has been amended and no claims have been canceled or added. Thus, claims 1-32 are still pending in the present application.

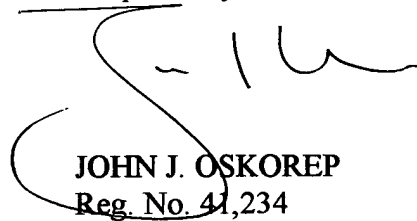
In the Office Action mailed on 04 August 2004, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-22 and claims 27-32 were allowable. In response, the Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's conditional allowability of such claims. Such claims warrant a broad scope of coverage for the present invention.

In the same Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 23 as being anticipated by Satoh (US Patent No. 6,469,853 B1). In response, the Applicants amend claim 23. Amended claim 23 now includes the added limitation that "a second plurality of S₂ servo sample wedges ... are interleaved with the first plurality of S₁ servo sample wedges such that the S₁ and S₂ servo sample wedges are equally spaced apart circumferentially along the outermost position on the disk." As described in the present application, such feature is advantageous in that changes to the disk detection mechanism need not be extensive. Satoh does not teach or suggest such limitation. In Satoh, the 1st and 2nd servo areas along the outermost position on the disk are not equally spaced apart. See FIG. 1 of Satoh. Thus, amended claim 23 and claims 24-26 dependent therefrom are now allowable over the prior art of record as well.

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present amendment and reconsideration of all rejected claims. Based on the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now allowable over the prior art of record and that the present application is now in a condition suitable for allowance.

Thank you. Please feel free to contact the undersigned if it would expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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